

**WETHERBY**  
**Rural District Council.**

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**ANNUAL REPORTS**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

AND THE

**SURVEYOR AND**


**INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES**

FOR THE

**YEARS 1917 and 1918.**

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WETHERBY:  
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# Wetherby Rural District Council.

## Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEARS ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1917 and 1918.

### TO THE WETHERBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Report upon your District for the years 1917 and 1918.

#### Water Supply.

Investigation has been carried on in regard to the various wells in the District. Eleven samples of water have been taken for Chemical Analysis. Of these 10 were found to be satisfactory; in the case of the faulty one an improved supply was obtained.

An addition of 35 houses has been made to the houses supplied by the various Water Mains within your District. There are now 1,925 out of 3,492 houses which obtain their supplies in this manner.

The following Table (Table I.) gives their distribution in the different Parishes :—

**TABLE I.**

Parishes.	Inhabited houses.				Number of Houses supplied.				
	Census.								
A.	1901.	1911.		1904.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
Wetherby .....	456	538	...	328	431	436	438	439	435
Boston Spa .....	336	347	...	247	339	340	340	341	345
Thorparch .....	61	70	...	24	31	31	38	46	50
Collingham .....	83	125	...	88	130	131	131	131	132
East Keswick ...	101	122	...	103	111	111	111	111	109
East Rigton .....	—	—	...	13	21	21	21	21	20
Bardsey .....	63	69	...	15	20	20	20	20	19
Linton .....	35	35	...	17	28	30	30	30	30
Kirk Deighton ...	75	79	...	6	16	16	27	29	44
Clifford .....	176	187	...	20	105	109	111	122	128
Bramham .....	225	233	...	68	127	127	129	129	137
Scarcroft .....	57	65	...	—	28	29	29	29	30
Thorner .....	225	255	...	—	111	127	128	129	133
Walton .....	39	40	...	—	37	38	38	39	37
Micklethwaite ...	17	16	...	—	—	11	11	11	12
	1958	2181	...	929	1535	1577	1602	1627	1661

*Weeton .....	99	117	...	—	106	110	110	103	103
*North Rigton ...	87	94	...	—	6	6	6	11	11
*Wigton .....	49	55	...	—	48	52	52	46	46
†Harewood .....	126	151	...	—	101	101	101	101	101
‡Kirkby Overblow	66	75	...	—	7	19	29	30	31
	2383	2673	...	929	1803	1865	1900	1918	1953

A. Supplied by the Wetherby District Water Co.

\* Supplied by the Leeds City Council.

† Private Supply of the Earl of Harewood.

‡ Supplied by the Wetherby Rural District Council.

### Rivers and Streams.

No instances of Pollution of Rivers or Streams have been reported. The 16 Sewage Disposal Works have continued to give satisfaction, and now deal with over 10,000 of the 13,885 people within your District. Much trouble was experienced in maintaining sufficient labour to keep the different works in order, but the persistence and resource of your Sanitary Inspector proved equal to the difficulties confronting him.

### House Drainage and Closet Accommodation.

The amount of work done in this department has not been equal to the accomplishment of some years past. This has been entirely due to War conditions. Both material and labour were difficult to secure, and it was found necessary in many cases to postpone the work until after the War period. This was particularly the case in regard to the conversion of conveniences into Water Closets.

In Tables II. and III. particulars are given of the nature of the work done along with the record for several previous years.

### Scavenging.

TABLE II.

	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
New Drains constructed .....	985	960	265	429	302	112	67
Drains re-constructed .....	23	20	17	7	3	28	21
Inspection or Intercepting Chambers .....	240	257	65	117	72	35	14
New Connections to Sewers .....	110	113	27	47	33	5	1
Cesspools abolished .....	19	17	5	40	8	—	3



**TABLE III.**

	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
New Closets constructed .....	27	12	31	23	18	7	5
Privy Middens converted into W.C.'s	33	19	24	32	13	2	2
Privy Middens converted into Pail Closets .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Pail Closets converted into W.C.'s	10	12	1	23	8	10	2
Water Closets erected with new houses .....	27	7	10	11	12	2	—
New Pail Closets erected with new houses .....	—	—	15	1	4	—	—
Pail Closets and W.C.'s repaired.	—	—	—	—	—	46	25
New Galvanized Iron Dust-bins pro- vided .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	9

**Scavenging.**

The chief difficulties in regard to Scavenging have arisen from the difficulty of securing sufficient labour, and at times serious anxiety was experienced. The figures given in your Inspector's Report show that, upon the whole, the amount of work done was not much below the average, a result, I consider, your Council is to be congratulated upon. Table IV. shows the cost of Scavenging in the Parishes where it is undertaken by your Council.

**TABLE IV.****COST OF HOUSE SCAVENGING.**

	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
*Wetherby .....	278	299	320	252	278	292	317	300	321
*Boston Spa .....	151	163	202	163	157	158	194	201	234
†Bramham .....	40	50	48	44	38	38	44	39	40
†Thorner .....	70	79	82	91	98	104	127	88	117
†Clifford .....	42	59	49	39	47	34	49	50	66
†Spofforth .....	30	46	50	39	46	48	45	51	43
†Weeton .....	150	124	124	124	132	118	65	67	68
†Collingham .....	36	62	66	64	42	42	56	63	61

\* Council's own Workmen.      † By Contract.

**Sanitary Inspection of the District.**

Mr. Gray has continued to carry on his duties with the same vigour and enthusiasm that has characterised his work since his appointment by your Council. The difficulties he has had to contend with have been at times overwhelming, but he has succeeded in keeping the Sanitation of the District in good order.

In Table V. will be found particulars of the Nuisances found and their character.

**TABLE V.**

	1916.	1917.	1918.
Number of Premises Visited .....	798	596	748
Number of Visits to Premises .....	2802	2519	1972

Chief nuisances found were as follows :—

Houses Badly Drained .....	36	15	2
Houses Dirty .....	10	5	4
Houses Overcrowded .....	6	6	1
Dilapidated Cowsheds, Pigsties, etc. ....	27	12	11
Dilapidated and Offensive Privies .....	77	63	24
Drains temporarily Stopped .....	30	72	68
Lack of Water for Domestic Purposes ...	23	25	35
Total Nuisances found .....	621	304	302

In Table VI. information is given of the new Drains constructed during the last 15 years and the number of Water Closets constructed.

**TABLE VI.**

Years.	New Drains. Constructed.	New Water Closets and Privies converted to Water Closets.
1903 .....	37	7
1904 .....	59	No record.
1905 .....	222	5
1906 .....	42	33
1907 .....	47	2
1908 .....	96	23
1909 .....	175	48
1910 .....	347	52
1911 .....	707	49
1912 .....	985	70
1913 .....	960	43
1914 .....	265	56
1915 .....	429	78
1916 .....	302	51
1917 .....	112	17
1918 .....	67	9

A summary of the work done under the Sanitary Inspector's supervision will be found in the Table of Nuisances reported and abated, supplied at the end of his Report. It is there stated that :—

- 1,149 Notices and Letters were issued.
- 302 Nuisances found.
- 281 Nuisances abated.
- 105 Houses were inspected.
- 67 New Drains constructed.
- 59 Drains disconnected from Outfall.

**Premises and Occupations** which are controlled by Bye-Laws and Regulations have received constant supervision. 227 visits have been paid to 145 Cowsheds, 112 visits to 98 Workshops, and 136 visits to 25 Slaughterhouses.

The system of slaughtering cattle more centrally than in pre-war times has proved of great assistance in the control of unsound meat. Carcasses showing General Tuberculosis and Acute Septicæmia were met with. I desire to acknowledge the action of the Butchers in several instances in reporting these cases to us.

The following quantity of meat was surrendered and condemned:—

Beef .....	74 Stones.
Mutton .....	4 „
Lamb .....	3 „
Ham .....	4 „
Bacon .....	2 „

Several instances of meat and bread supplied to troops in the District came under my notice, and were condemned as unfit for human consumption. The chief cause in these cases appeared to be delay in transport.

In one instance your Council took action against a person for slaughtering an animal upon unlicensed premises. At the same time another charge, against the same individual, of slaughtering an animal in contravention of the Knackers' Acts was dismissed.

### **Schools.**

The only serious trouble in connection with the schools was associated with the epidemic of Influenza. The first appearance of the disease in the Wetherby area revealed itself amongst the scholars of a particular class in one school, the children affected began to be ill on the Sunday, and the school was closed the following morning. I had previously discussed the measures to be taken on the advent of the disease with your Sanitary Inspector. We had agreed that the schools should be closed on the first appearance of the disease. This was done, as far as possible, throughout the District, but there were so many channels of infection in such a widespread epidemic, that it was impossible to gauge the effect of this procedure. I am quite satisfied that in any similar recurrence of Influenza it is one of the things to do, and to do promptly.

I submit a list of the schools closed during the year, almost entirely for Influenza. It will be noticed the total period of closure exceeds 97 weeks, in comparison with 21 weeks in my last Report.



**School Closing :—**

Weeks. Days.				Weeks. Days.			
				Brought forward ...	42.	2	
Bardsey	Measles .....	3	—	Long Marston. Influenza	3	2	
„	Influenza.....	3	3	Little Ribston „	4	—	
Bilton	„ .....	3	—	North Rigton. Whooping,			
Boston Spa	„ .....	3	2	Cough	4	—	
(Church)				„ „ Influenza	4	1	
Bramham	„ .....	4	—	Spofforth „	5	—	
(Church)				Thorparch. Scarlet F'v'r.	3	—	
Clifford	„ .....	5	1	„ Influenza	3	2	
(Convent)				Tockwith „	5	2	
Collingham	„ .....	3	1	(Church)			
Harewood	„ .....	2	—	Tockwith „	8	—	
E. Keswick	Measles .....	3	—	(Wesleyan)			
„ „	Influenza.....	4	2	Weeton „	5	—	
Kirkby O'blow.	„ .....	3	—	Wetherby „	5	—	
Kirk Deighton	„ .....	3	4	(Church)			
Linton	„ .....	1	3	Wetherby „	5	—	
				(Council)			
Carried forward.....				Total .....	97	2	



I submit to you a detailed statement of the work done in regard to Housing during the year:—

**Housing.—Work Carried out under Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.**

	1917.	1918.
Dwellinghouses inspected under or for Sec. 17 of the Act of 1909.	49	19
Dwellinghouses which, on inspection, were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	5	2
Number of above closed and demolished (voluntary) .....	—	—
Number of Back-to-Back converted into Through Houses .....	—	—
Number of above condemned, but not yet closed .....	21	21
Number of Houses condemned and closed during 1916, but not yet demolished .....	1	1
Houses demolished (Clifford Barracks) .....	11	—
Total number of Houses closed during 1917 and 1918 .....	5	2
Houses converted into good dwellings .....	2	—

**General Character of Defects Found to Exist.**

	1917.	1918.
Insufficient Light and Ventilation .....	4	—
Defective Walls .....	3	1
Defective Drainage, etc. ....	6	3
Defective Roofs and Spouts .....	4	1
Damp Walls .....	7	1
Other Repairs .....	11	5
Sets of Plans Approved .....	7	8
Number of New Houses Completed and Certified .....	1	—

I submit also a Table showing the number of New Houses built and Houses closed in the District since 1902.

**TABLE VII.**  
**Showing Number of Houses Built and Closed.**

Year.	Residential.	Working Classes.	Total.	Houses Closed.
1902	—	—	20	0
1903	Most.	—	28	4
1904	Most.	—	12	1
1905	17	6	23	0
1906	11	22	33	3
1907	4	—	4	1
1908	15	8	23	1
1909	9	12	21	3
1910	11	11	22	4
1911	9	8	17	14
1912	8	17	25	11
1913	4	13	17	15
1914	9	13	22	3
1915	6	1	7	7
1916	2	6	8	3
1917	1	—	1	5
1918	—	—	—	2
	106	117	283	77

## Workshops.

There have been no important developments in the Workshops in the District. There are 98 registered, and 112 visits have been paid to them. In 1917, 128 visits were paid to them.

**TABLE OF WORKSHOPS.**

Bakers, etc. ....	15	Laundries .....	12
Boot Repairers .....	8	Plumbers and Tinnerns .....	5
Blacksmiths .....	9	Painting Work .....	2
Blouse and Shirt (Factories) ...	2	Saddlers .....	5
Coopers .....	1	Sawmills .....	1
Dressmakers .....	10	Tailors .....	10
Engineers (Motor) .....	4	—	—
Joiners .....	14		98

## Sanitary Administration of the District.

This work has continued to be carried on with marked efficiency by Mr. Gray, despite the fact that a considerable increase in clerical work occurred owing to the retirement of Mr. Coates.

## Hospital.

A serious misfortune occurred early in May, 1918, when the larger block at your Hospital was destroyed by fire. As your Council is aware, this building was constructed of wood and galvanized iron, it provided accommodation for twenty-two beds, and has been very useful during its existence. There were no patients in the building when the fire occurred, and the rapidity with which it was destroyed affords evidence of the danger of temporary erections for the treatment of acute illness.

Re-construction was found to be a difficult matter during the war period, and your Council, after consulting the County Council Officials, decided to consider the practicability of amalgamating with some neighbouring Hospital Authority for the treatment of its Infectious Diseases. Negotiations are at present proceeding.

## Chemical and Bacteriological Work.

The Bacteriological and Chemical Analyses required have been largely met by the Laboratory at the County Hall. I again desire to express my gratitude to the County Staff for their valuable assistance whenever required.

## Prevalence and Control over Acute Infectious Disease.

With the exception of Influenza the prevalence of Infectious Disease has been much below the average. In regard to the

“ old ” notifiable diseases, 31 cases were reported, the yearly average for the past 15 years being 64.

There were 12 cases of Scarlet Fever, 12 of Diphtheria, 6 of Erysipelas, and one of Enteric Fever. No particular difficulties were experienced in the management of them.

### **Measles**

Was prevalent in a portion of the District in the early part of the year, but gradually disappeared. There were 65 cases notified, in comparison with 183 in the previous year.

### **Tuberculosis.**

There were 10 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 4 of other varieties notified. With the exception of one year this is the lowest recorded since the Regulations came into force.

### **Influenza.**

The Influenza Epidemic experienced followed, on the whole, the character of the disease throughout the country. The summer outbreak was very mild in comparison to the one experienced in October, and it appeared to protect most of its victims from the winter outbreak, although cases did occur in which individuals were affected in each epidemic. The second epidemic commenced about October, and may be said to have run a course of eight weeks. It was remarkable for the virulence of the disease, its acute infectivity and the gravity of its complications. The extensive character of the outbreak rendered the ordinary measures adopted for the control of infectious disease largely futile. The depletion of the Medical Nursing Professions for War purposes increased the difficulties.

It was soon evident that the disease spread most rapidly where people were congregated together, such as public conveyances and public assemblies; that it was least controllable in small houses fully occupied, and where no opportunities of isolation were possible.

The difficulties of securing nurses were very great. Your Council engaged two nurses to support the various district nurses in the area, and together they rendered very valuable services indeed.

The question of attention to sick households presented at times very grave difficulties. It frequently happened that people who had gone to the assistance of their neighbours were smitten down themselves and infected the whole of their own household. It was, in



addition, difficult to secure their food supplies. The treatment and management of the severe cases of Septic Pneumonia presented grave difficulties. It, too, often spread through a household. The question of whether such cases should be removed to a separate Isolation Hospital is one for careful consideration, along with the provision of suitable Hospital accommodation for the many instances where, from varying causes, efficient attention cannot be secured.

The mortality of the disease was very severe. There were 51 deaths directly attributable to Influenza. They occurred in the following age periods :—

0	1	2	5	15	25	45	65
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
1	2	5	15	25	45	65	& over
<hr/>							
—	1	4	5	13	17	7	4
<hr/>							

### Prevalence and Control over Tuberculosis.

In 1917 there were 11 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified and 7 cases of other forms of Tuberculosis.

In 1918 there were 11 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified and 3 cases of other forms of Tuberculosis .

The following Table gives particulars of age periods :—

Year.	0	1	2	5	15	25	45	65
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1	2	5	15	25	45	65	& over
<hr/>								
1916	—	—	1	5	8	10	—	1
1917	—	—	1	4	4	6	3	—

In 1917 there were 17 deaths from Phthisis—7 Males and 10 Females, and 7 from other forms of Tuberculosis.

In 1918 there were 11 deaths from Phthisis—3 Males and 8 Females, and 5 from other forms of Tuberculosis.

TABLE OF NOTIFICATIONS.

1917.	Cerebro-Spinal Men.	Cerebro-Spinal Men. (Mil.)	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Scarlet Fever (Mil'y).	Typhoid Fever.	Erysipelas.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Measles.	Measles. (Mil'y).	Total.
Boston Spa .....	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	11	5	19
Bramham .....	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	4	—	8
Clifford .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Collingham .....	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	16	—	19
Keswick, East .....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	9
Kirk Deighton .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	8	—	10
Rigton .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	8
Scarcroft .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3
Spofforth .....	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	31	—	35
Thorner .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	7
Thorparch .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	6
Tockwith .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Walton .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Weeton .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	11
Wetherby .....	—	1	9	1	3	—	3	—	41	5	63
All other Parishes .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—	21
	1	4	17	7	3	—	7	1	173	10	223

1918.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid Fever.	Erysipelas.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Measles.	Total.
Bardsey with Rigton .....	—	—	—	—	—	11	11
Boston Spa .....	3	—	—	1	—	—	4
Bramham .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Clifford .....	—	2	—	1	—	—	3
Harewood .....	—	2	—	—	—	2	4
Keswick, East .....	—	—	—	—	—	10	10
Kirk Deighton .....	—	1	—	—	—	2	3
Kirkby Overblow .....	—	1	—	—	—	2	3
Rigton .....	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Scarcroft .....	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
Spofforth .....	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Thorner .....	3	—	—	—	—	7	10
Thorparch .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tockwith .....	—	—	—	—	—	5	5
Walton .....	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Weeton .....	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Wetherby .....	4	2	1	3	—	6	16
Wighill .....	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
All other Parishes .....	—	—	—	—	—	10	10
	12	12	1	6	—	65	96



1917.	Cerebro-Spinal Men:		Diph-theria.	Scarlet Fever.	Ophthalmia		Measles.	Measles (Mil'y).	Total.
	Cerebro-Spinal Men:	Spinal Men:			Ery-sipelas.	Neona-torum.			
January	—	—	3	—	1	—	9	—	15
February	—	3	1	—	1	—	32	—	38
March	1	1	3	—	—	—	23	6	34
April	—	—	4	—	2	—	26	3	38
May	—	—	1	—	1	—	38	1	41
June	—	—	2	—	—	—	14	—	17
July	—	—	—	—	1	1	13	—	15
August	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
September	—	—	1	—	—	—	13	—	14
October	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	3
November	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	3
December	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
	1	4	17	—	7	1	173	10	223

1918.	Men: Spinal Cerebro-	Men: (Mil.) Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever (Mil'y).	Typhoid Fever.	Erysipelas.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Measles. (Mil'y).	Measles Total.
January .....	—	1	2	—	—	—	18	21
February .....	—	2	—	—	1	—	21	24
March .....	—	2	1	—	—	—	5	8
April .....	—	1	1	1	—	—	6	9
May .....	—	—	—	—	1	—	8	9
June .....	—	1	3	—	1	—	5	10
July .....	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	5
August .....	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
September .....	—	—	2	—	1	—	2	5
October .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
November .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
December .....	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	3
	—	12	12	1	6	—	65	96

### Infant Mortality, 1917.

The rate of Infant Mortality was 78.04 per 1,000 births, in comparison with 97 for England and Wales and 104 for the 96 Great Towns. In 1918 the rate of Infant Mortality was 73.12 per 1,000 births, in comparison with 97 for England and Wales and 106 for the 96 Great Towns.

Much attention has been given to child welfare. The various District Nurses in the area have been organised under the County Scheme.

A Clinic has been established in Wetherby. The Clinic and the work of the various District Nurses has been well received by the community, the mother in particular showing great appreciation.

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### Vital Statistics.

I append Tables 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, giving details of the Vital Statistics of the District:—

	1917.	1918.
The Death Rate was .....	14.30	15.31
The Birth Rate was .....	14.53	14.52

In the following Table will be found a comparison of the rates of the District with that of the country in general:—

	Birth Rate.		Death Rate.		Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births.	
	1917.	1918.	1917.	1918.	1917.	1918.
England and Wales .....	17.8	17.7	14.4	17.6	97	97
96 Great Towns, including London (Census Population exceeding 50,000) .....	18.1	17.6	14.6	18.2	104	106
148 Smaller Towns (Census Populations 20,000—50,000) .....	18.0	17.9	13.2	16.1	93	94
London .....	17.5	16.1	15.0	18.9	103	107
Wetherby R. D. ....	14.53	14.52	14.30	15.31	78.04	73.12

The following is a List of the Causes of Death:—

### Causes of Death in Wetherby Rural District.

	1917.	1918.
Whooping Cough .....	—	1
Influenza .....	4	51
Erysipelas .....	1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	15	9
Tuberculous Meningitis .....	—	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases .....	5	4
Cancer, Malignant Disease .....	20	19
Rheumatic Fever .....	1	—
Meningitis .....	2	—



Organic Heart Disease .....	23	21
Bronchitis .....	12	5
Pneumonia (all forms) .....	14	5
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	2	4
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) .....	1	2
Nephritis and Bright's Disease .....	7	5
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever .....	—	1
Congenital Debility, etc. ....	8	8
Violence, apart from Suicide .....	4	6
Suicide .....	1	3
Other Defined Diseases .....	61	46
TOTAL .....	181	193

Special Causes (included above) :—

Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	1	—
----------------------------	---	---

### Twenty-Five Years.

It is now 25 years since I was appointed your Medical Officer of Health, and perhaps a fitting opportunity to review the work accomplished in your District. I do not propose to discuss it in detail, but give you a summary of the more important matters.

The conversion of the Rural Sanitary Authority into the Rural District Council effected an enormous change in the constitution and activity of the governing body.

In a survey of the District conducted by the County Medical Officer in 1896 it was stated :—

The Wetherby Rural District comes far short of reasonable sanitary efficiency. Amongst the points requiring attention are the following :—

1. Water Supply for those villages which are still in need of it, and proper protection of present wholesome supplies.
2. Drainage, Sewerage, and Sewage Disposal for the populous part of the District.
3. Public Scavenging—more especially in the populous parts of the District.
4. Proper Bye-Laws, duly enforced.
5. Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order.
6. Supervision of Regulated Buildings and Trades, and particularly Milk Supplies.

7. Systematic House-to-House Inspection, with particular reference to Drainage, Closets, Dampness, State of Repair, and Nuisances generally ; and abatement of nuisances reported.
8. The adoption of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, and of the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.
9. An Isolation Hospital, and Steam Disinfection Apparatus.
10. Samples should be taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts in addition to those procured by the County Inspectors.

Water supplies have been established for all the larger Parishes, and out of 3,492 houses in the District, 1,925 have now a piped supply.

There was no proper Sewerage Scheme at work in your District at the time of my appointment ; one in Wetherby was in process of construction. There are now 16 Disposal Works, dealing with a population of 10,000 out of a total of 13,885, scattered over an area of nearly 100 square miles.

#### LIST OF SEWAGE SCHEMES.

Village.	Estimated Population.	Mode of Treatment.
Boston Spa .....	1400	Intermittant Downward Filtration, Land.
Bramham .....	850	Liquefaction Tanks and then as above.
Clifford .....	800	do. do. do.
East Keswick .....	400	Entirely Bacteriological. No land.
Spofforth .....	650	do. (Pumping Scheme). No land.
Thorner .....	950	Bacteriological and Land.
Tockwick .....	460	Liquefaction Tanks and Land.
Weeton .....	460	Bacteriological entirely.
Wetherby .....	2150	Broad Irrigation. No initial treatment.
Thorparch .....	210	Liquefaction Tanks and Land.
Wighill .....	100	do. do.
Wigton .....	140	Bacteriological and Land.
Kirkby Overblow .....	230	Land.
Do. (Walton Head)...	30	Broad Irrigation.
Collingham .....	60	Bacteriological and Land.
Sicklinghall (Hospital) .....	20	Tank and Land.

5,543 New Drains have been constructed.

524 Water Closets have been constructed, either to new buildings or in place of Pail Closets and Privies.

16,693 Notices or Letters have been served in regard to Sanitary matters.

10,542 Nuisances have been abated.

130 Houses have been closed, or are in process of closing, as unfit for human habitation.

Public Scavenging has been extended from one Parish to eight.

Bye-Laws have been instituted, dealing with the following :—

An Urban set of Building Bye-Laws covering the Parishes of Wetherby, Bramham, Clifford, Boston Spa and Thorner.

A set of Building Bye-Laws applicable to a Rural District covering the whole of the remaining Parishes in the District.

Common Lodging-houses.

Slaughterhouses.

Nuisances.

The keeping of animals injurious to health.

Dairies.

Cowsheds.

Milkshops.

Removal of House Refuse.

All the above came into force 12th June, 1905.

Slaughterhouses.—P.H.A.A. 1890, Secs. 29, 30, 31, for the Parishes in the District where Slaughterhouses are situated, adopted 22/5/1912. re Depôt at Wetherby, adopted 6/5/12. P.H.A. Sec. 149.

Private Street Works Act, 1892, re Sandringham Terrace and Grosvenor Terrace, Wetherby, adopted 8/6/12.

P.H.A. 1875, Sec. 276, re numbering of houses, Wetherby, 22/4/15.

25 Slaughterhouses, 148 Cowsheds, and 98 Workshops have been registered. During the past five years the following inspections in regard to the above have been made :—

Year.	Slaughterhouses.	Cowsheds.	Workshops.
1914 . . . . .	125	222	160
1915 . . . . .	109	230	145
1916 . . . . .	145	165	151
1917 . . . . .	141	340	128
1918 . . . . .	133	227	112
Total . . . . .	656	1184	696



The following Table, giving the Death Rates of the District since 1871, shows what an enormous improvement must have been effected in the Public Health by the advance of Medical Science and the development of Sanitary methods:—

1871—1880	.....	18.49
1881—1890	.....	16.84
1891—1900	.....	17.10
1901—1910	.....	14.27
1911—1918	.....	11.85

In conclusion, gentlemen, I must again thank you for the very kind assistance you have given me during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**J. A. HARGREAVES.**

October, 1919.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1918 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population —		Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to District.			
	estimated Middle of each Year.	Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	Of Non-residents registered in the District.	Of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year. Rate per 1,000	Number.	At all Ages. Rate.	
			Number.	Rate.								
1911	16,210	—	331	20.41	198	12.20	9	19	33	99.69	208	12.83
1912	16,236	—	299	18.41	175	10.77	—	16	17	56.85	191	11.76
1913	15,149	—	251	16.56	171	11.22	5	20	10	39.84	186	12.27
1914	15,226	—	264	17.33	169	11.09	13	21	21	79.54	177	11.62
1915	15,226	—	253	16.61	175	11.49	7	19	18	71.14	187	12.28
1916	15,107 Bths.— 13,885 Dths.	—	235	15.55	199	14.33	3	30	13	56.31	196	14.11
1917	14,101 Bths.— 12,650 Dths.	—	205	14.53	165	13.04	13	29	16	78.04	181	14.30
1918	14,119 Bths.— 12,601 Dths.	—	205	14.52	191	15.15	16	18	15	73.12	193	15.31

**NOTE.**—In accordance with the Local Government Board's (now Ministry of Health) suggestion, the figures for 1916, 1917, 1918, are based upon the Registrar General's calculations.

Area of District in Acres (land and inland water)	<b>65,802.</b>	Total Population at all ages .....	<b>16,210.</b>
		Total Families or Sep. Occupiers ...	<b>3,709.</b>



TABLE 2A.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1918.

Notifiable Disease.	At all ages	Number of cases notified							Total Cases Notified in each Locality (e.g., Parish or Ward) of the District.																	Total cases removed to Hospital																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
		At Ages—Years.							Bardsey	Boston Spa	Bramham	Clifford	Cowthorpe	Harewood	Keswick East	Kirk Delighton	Kirkby Overblow	Rigton	Scarcroft	Spofforth	Thornor	Thorp Arch	Tockwith	Walton	Weeton		Wetherby	Wighill	All other Parishes																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
		Under 1 year	1 & under 5 yrs.	5 & under 15 yrs.	15 & under 25 yrs.	25 & under 45 yrs.	45 & under 65 yrs.	65 & upwards																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
Small-Pox .....	12	2	6	2	2	3	2	3	1											3	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								



TABLE IV. A.  
INFANT MORTALITY.

1917. Nett Deaths from Stated Causes at Various Ages  
Under 1 Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 wks. & under 3 mths.	3 mths. & under 6 mths.	6 mths. & under 9 mths.	9 mths. & under 12 mths.	Total Deaths under 1 year
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Bronchitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia (all forms) .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Diarrhœa .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Suffocation—Overlaying .....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Premature Birth .....	—	—	2	—	2	3	2	—	—	7
Other Causes .....	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	3
Totals .....	3	—	2	—	5	4	3	3	1	16

Nett Births Registered during	{	Legitimate .....	186
the Calendar Year.	{	Illegitimate. ....	19
			<hr/> 205

Nett Deaths Registered during	{	Legitimate Infants .....	12
the Calendar Year.	{	Illegitimate Infants ....	4
			<hr/> 16

**TABLE IV. A.**  
**INFANT MORTALITY.**

**1918. Nett Deaths from Stated Causes at Various Ages  
Under 1 Year of Age.**

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 wks. & under 3 mths.	3 mths. & under 6 mths.	6 mths. & under 9 mths.	9 mths. & under 12 mths.	Total Deaths under 1 year
Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Bronchitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Diarrhœa .....	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	3
Premature Birth .....	8	1	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	9
Totals .....	8	1	1	2	12	1	—	2	—	15

Nett Births Registered during the Calendar Year.	{	Legitimate .....	192
		Illegitimate .....	13
			205

Nett Deaths Registered during the Calendar Year.	{	Legitimate Infants .....	14
		Illegitimate Infants ....	1
			15

# **Wetherby Rural District Council.**

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## **REPORT OF THE Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances For the Year Ending 31st December, 1917.**

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Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
June, 1918.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Wetherby Rural District  
Council.**

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure to submit for your consideration my Eleventh Annual Report, as Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, giving particulars of the work of your Health Department for the year ending December 31st, 1917.

The exigency of the present strenuous period, combined with changes of staff, and the extra demands in connection with Food Control work, compel me to reduce the Report to a minimum.

### **Nuisances.**

Considerable obstacles have had to be surmounted in having even necessary work carried out, due to labour shortage and the inability to obtain certain necessary materials for such work.

Only such structural work has been carried out as was absolutely necessary to safeguard the Public Health.

Temporary arrangements and expedients have been made in many instances to alleviate the possible menace to health, such as greater general cleanliness, improved scavenging, etc., leaving to the future the alterations and conversions so difficult to deal with to-day. Housing work has been retarded because of the stagnation of the building trade, and only acute matters have been dealt with.

There have been 1,231 letters and notices issued, and of these 190 were served as Preliminary Notices and 18 Legal Notices, which were all complied with.

304 Nuisances were found and 299 abated, exclusive of two outstanding at the close of 1916, thus leaving a total of 74 upon the books at the end of the year.

A large amount of time and attention has been devoted to the 32 public and private sewage disposal works in your area, as the reduction of labour has necessitated greater supervision to see that all necessary requirements in regard to vital matters were efficiently performed to prevent abnormal deterioration of material and plant, also to keep up as far as possible the high standard of purity in the sewage effluent.

No complaints have been received in regard to any of these installations.

A small alteration to the Spofforth Works has been carried out, which will make a large reduction in the necessary manual labour.

The humus tank having been connected direct with the main collection tank, thus practically the whole of the pumping can now be done by mechanical means in lieu of hand labour.

Sewer extensions and erection of new ventilation columns at Weeton, referred to in my Report of a year ago, have been completed.

Wetherby and Boston Spa Parishes have again experienced difficulties in regard to scavenging, especially in the early portion of the year during military occupation.

In all other parishes the work has been carried out satisfactorily.

### **House Drainage and Sanitary Arrangements.**

Fifteen houses were found, upon examination and test, to have unsatisfactory drainage systems, and these were re-drained.

112 new drains were constructed and 28 drains repaired, whilst 35 new inspection and disconnection chambers were built.

Ten Pail Closets were converted into W.C.'s, two Privy Middens into W.C.'s, three Privy Middens into Pail Closets, whilst 46 Pail Closets and W.C.'s were repaired.

In addition, five new W.C.'s and two new Pail Closets were erected in lieu of dilapidated ones condemned.



## Construction of New Buildings.

There were only seven sets of plans approved during the past year, and only one villa completed and certified during this period.

## Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

There were 49 houses inspected under the above Act as compared with 57 during the previous year.

## Summary of Work under the Housing Act.

Number of Houses inspected .....	49
Number of Houses found unfit:—	
2 at Wighill, converted into 1 good cottage .....	} 5
2 at Ingmanthorpe, converted into 1 good cottage .....	
1 at Walton, condemned and closed voluntarily .....	
Number of Houses condemned and closed during 1916, but not yet demolished (Bardsey) .....	1
Number of Houses condemned and closed during 1915, but only demolished during 1917 (Clifford Barracks) .....	1½
Number of Houses condemned during 1914, but not yet demolished (Spofforth) .....	18
Number of Houses condemned during 1914, but not yet closed (Telephone Exchange, Thorner) .....	1
Number of Houses closed during 1913, but not yet demolished (Walton) .....	2
Damp Walls prevented .....	7
Light and Ventilation improved .....	4
Walls repaired .....	3
Roofs and Spouts repaired .....	4
Drainage, Conveniences, etc. ....	6
Overcrowded and Dirty (dealt with) .....	11
Houses found Satisfactory .....	26
Total Houses closed during 1917 .....	5
Houses converted into good dwellings .....	2

## Military.

During the first five months of the year much time was devoted to the care of the troops billeted in the District.

At the close of 1916 there were 500 at Boston Spa, with an overflow into Clifford, and a similar number at Wetherby and a draft at Bramham.

These were chiefly Artillery, and consequently had a large number of horses, which filled all the available accommodation in the villages named and overflowed into Micklethwaite and Thorparch.

There were difficulties in regard to scavenging, all similar to the details outlined in my last Report, but were also overcome in a satisfactory manner.

### **Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.**

A slight deflexure from the above brevity is here necessary, due to the serious nature of the attack of this disease in your area during the year.

In connection with the troops billeted in your area the Tramp Ward at the Union, Wetherby, was converted into a Sick Bay and Isolation Ward.

**Case No. 1.**—On January 28th a Driver was admitted to the above Ward, and was suspected the same day as possibly suffering from this disease, which was confirmed the following day, and he was removed to the 2nd Northern General Hospital, Leeds.

He came from Woolwich to Tadcaster on the 27th December, 1916, and to Wetherby on the 8th January, 1917.

All contacts and patients at the Union Hospital were swabbed and positive cases isolated, the premises thoroughly disinfected by formalin spray and gaseous fumigation, followed by efficient ventilation of premises.

There were no further cases in connection therewith.

**Case No. 2.**—On February 16th a soldier came home on leave from Whitley Bay to East Keswick, a village some  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Wetherby, was taken ill upon the 18th, and died on the 19th, and was certified as above.

Swabs were taken, contacts isolated, etc., and there were no further cases.

**Case No. 3.**—A soldier came home on leave from Catterick Bridge on February 13th to Boston Spa, a village three miles from Wetherby, in the opposite direction, to East Keswick, and commenced ill on the 16th, and was immediately removed to the 2nd Northern Hospital, Leeds, where he died on the 22nd inst.

Swabs were taken from all contacts and isolation, etc., carried out, and no other case reported in direct connection therewith.

**Case No. 4.**—A recruit came on February 21st from Farnborough to Bramham, and commenced ill on March 2nd, and was at once removed to the York Military Hospital, certified as suffering from this disease.

The billet was disinfected and contacts isolated, and again there was no further case.

**Case No. 5.**—On March 31st a lady at Boston Spa was notified as suffering from this disease, and she died on the 12th of April.

This lady had been attending the Soldiers' Canteen at Boston Spa for some time as a voluntary helper.

Isolation and disinfection were carried out, and no other case occurred throughout the remainder of the year.

There were in all five cases, of whom three are known to have died, whilst all trace of the other two cases was lost after their removal to Military Hospital.

### **Other Military Cases.**

There were three cases of Scarlet Fever notified, all of whom were billeted at the Church School, Wetherby.

These were removed and treated at your Isolation Hospital, and fortunately curtailed the spread of infection, as no other case was reported.

There were also 10 cases of Measles notified from the Military Authority.

### **Water.**

Twenty-five additional houses were connected to the Wetherby Water Co.'s mains, whilst all the other schemes remain as a year ago.

Thus there are 1,890 houses which have a good piped supply out of an estimated 3,493 houses in the District.

Eighteen samples of water were taken for chemical analysis, and of these 13 were reported as quite satisfactory.

Two were contaminated, and the two wells were closed, in one case a new bore was sunk and in the other, supplying 11 houses, the well closed and the houses connected to the Wetherby Co.'s mains.

Two of the others were from a new well in connection with four new cottages and showed signs of pollution, which had not been definitely removed at the end of the year.

The other was a second sample taken in connection with one of the closed wells, which proved to be seriously polluted after certain steps had been taken to cleanse it, consequently the well was closed.



### Infection and Disinfection.

There has again been a reduction of the infectious cases reported other than Cerebro-Spinal Fever and Measles.

The number is the lowest for 13 years, with the exception of 1908.

**TABLE OF ZYMOTIC RETURNS.**

1917	number	notified	40	1910	number	notified	102
1916	„	„	53	1909	„	„	50
1915	„	„	49	1908	„	„	39
1914	„	„	56	1907	„	„	78
1913	„	„	41	1906	„	„	50
1912	„	„	78	1905	„	„	151
1911	„	„	52	1904	„	„	114

There were only 10 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the twelve months, which is a record for your District, being, in fact, 50 per cent. below any return during the last 23 years, as the appended Table shows.

There were 17 cases of Diphtheria notified, which is slightly above the average.

It is pleasing to note, for the second year in succession, that no case of Typhoid Fever was recorded.

There were seven cases of Erysipelas and one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum and five cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

**TABLE OF SCARLET FEVER CASES.**

1917	number	notified	10	1910	number	notified	102
1916	„	„	33	1909	„	„	50
1915	„	„	49	1908	„	„	39
1914	„	„	56	1907	„	„	78
1913	„	„	41	1906	„	„	50
1912	„	„	78	1905	„	„	151
1911	„	„	56	1904	„	„	114

### Measles Regulations, 1915.

This disease has been very much pronounced during the past twelve months than it was in the previous year, as predicted in my Report of a year ago.



There were 183 cases notified, as compared with only 33 during 1916.

During January and February there was a small outbreak, with about 25 notifications in Wetherby, which gradually spread to Spofforth, Deighton and Collingham, and one or two cases beyond this area, and by the end of June, when the outbreak had practically abated, there had been 152 notifications.

The latter half of the year was more or less free, with the exception of a small outbreak at North Rigton, and there were only 31 cases notified during this period.

Only 20 cases were notified by heads of households under the Regulations, thus 90.93 per cent. of the total notifications were sent in by medical practitioners.

The usual precautionary measures were applied, as outlined in my last Report, and the following Schools were closed on account thereof :—

#### **LIST OF SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR MEASLES.**

Kirk Deighton.  
Wetherby (Council).  
Linton.

Wetherby (Church).  
Spofforth.  
North Rigton.

#### **Tuberculosis Regulations, 1912.**

Eighteen notifications were notified under the above, as compared with 13, 29, 37 and 25 in the previous four years respectively.

#### **Dairies, Cowsheds, Etc.**

A large amount of time was given to the inspection of the above, and 340 visits of inspection were made. Three new ones were erected, and a model farm erected for the production of milk and butter, under very good sanitary conditions.

There are now 148 Cowsheds registered in the District.

#### **Sale of Food and Drugs Act.**

Three samples of milk were taken for analysis, of which one showed 4.8 per cent. of added water. The County Council decided to issue a warning.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the following List of Samples taken by the Council's Officers in this District :—

No. & Description.	Result of Analysis.
741. Castor Oil .....	Genuine.
742. Cheese .....	"
743. Arrowroot .....	"
744. Milk of Sulphur .....	"
745. Camphorated Oil .....	"
746. Baking Powder .....	Doubtful.
869. Flowers of Sulphur .....	Genuine.
870. Baking Powder .....	"
871. Cream of Tartar .....	"
872. Lard .....	"
873. Pearl Barley .....	"
874. Ground Ginger .....	"
875. Self-Rising Flour .....	"
876. Ground Rice .....	"
877. Ground Ginger .....	"
878. Corn Flour .....	"
879. Pepper .....	"
880. Pearl Barley .....	"
889. Milk .....	Contained 97% min. prop. of fat. Reported.
890. Milk .....	Genuine.
891. Milk .....	"
892. Olive Oil .....	"
893. Baking Powder .....	"
894. Lard .....	"
895. Corn Flour .....	"
896. Danish Butter .....	"
897. Arrowroot .....	"
963. Milk .....	"
964. Milk .....	"
965. Self-Rising Flour .....	"
966. Corn Flour .....	"
967. Flaked Rice .....	"
968. Flowers of Sulphur .....	"
969. Arrowroot .....	"
970. Ground Rice .....	"
971. Baking Powder .....	"
972. Cocoa .....	"

### **Slaughterhouses.**

141 visits were made to the 25 Slaughterhouses in your area, and no contraventions were met with.

### **Workshops.**

I paid 128 visits to the 98 Workshops upon the Registers, and beyond several minor complaints as to general cleanliness there was nothing serious to report.

### TABLE OF WORKSHOPS.

Bakers, etc. ....	15	Laundries .....	12
Boot Repairers .....	8	Painting Work .....	2
Blacksmiths .....	9	Plumbers and Tinnerns .....	5
Blouse and Shirt (Factories) ...	2	Saddlers .....	5
Coopers .....	1	Sawmills .....	1
Dressmakers .....	10	Tailors .....	10
Engineers (Motor) .....	4		—
Joiners .....	14		98
			—

### House Scavenging.

I append list of work performed under this heading, which, taken as a whole, has been carried out in a satisfactory manner under the abnormal conditions prevailing.

#### Loads Removed—Ashpits.

	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
Boston Spa .....	708	755	775	763	740	789	782
Bramham .....	270	239	251	204	259	285	337
Clifford .....	170	153	234	267	274	364	401
Thorner .....	350	342	397	445	427	384	437
Weeton .....	320	337	339	336	386	404	324
Wetherby .....	680	621	617	584	725	605	742
Collingham .....	233	233	194	213	193	212	199
Spofforth .....	—	—	118	120	103	89	72

#### Loads Removed—Cesspools.

	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
Boston Spa .....	7	—	4	—	4	16	4
Bramham .....	12	4	60	—	—	—	—
Clifford .....	1143	402	43	69	83	49	40
Thorner .....	51	73	78	62	74	71	35
Weeton .....	587	634	743	877	304	55	18
Wetherby .....	1894	1339	1271	1041	931	673	756
Collingham .....	1626	1340	499	365	329	312	261
Spofforth .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

### Petroleum Regulations.

There has been no infringement of the above during the year, although careful inspection has been made because of the extra risk due to war conditions.

I beg to thank the Council, Medical Officer of Health, and Officials for their generous assistance at all times during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**THOMAS V. GRAY.**



**TABLE OF NUISANCES REPORTED AND ABATED DURING THE  
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1917.**

Houses Dirty .....	5
„ Overcrowded .....	6
„ Damp and Dilapidated .....	7
„ Badly Drained .....	15
„ Without sufficient Privy Accommodation .....	1
„ Dilapidated Privies .....	63
„ Drains Temporarily Stopped .....	72
„ Dilapidated Pumps .....	5
„ Want of Cesspools .....	0
„ Want of Water for Domestic Purposes .....	25
No. of Offensive Accumulations .....	7
„ „ Cowsheds, Stables, Pigsties, etc. ....	12
„ Pollutions to Rivers, Streams, etc. ....	4
„ House Drains Removed from Streams, etc. ....	4
„ Polluted Wells .....	3
„ House Nuisances Found .....	235
Total Number of Nuisances Found .....	304
No. of House to House Inspections made under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909 .....	49
„ Houses thoroughly Inspected for Zymotic Disease .....	40
„ Other House Inspections (Drainage) .....	15
„ New House Inspections (for Certificate) .....	1
No. of Notices and Letters Served .....	1231
„ Dwelling-houses Cleansed .....	5
„ Dwelling-houses Overcrowded dealt with .....	6
„ Privy Middens Built .....	0
„ Old Privy Middens Repaired .....	0
„ Old Privy Middens converted to Water Closets .....	2
„ Old Privy Middens converted to Pail Closets .....	3
„ Pail Closets converted to Water Closets .....	10
„ Pail Closets and Water Closets Repaired .....	46
„ New Water Closets Built .....	5
„ New Pail Closets Built .....	2
„ New Galvanised Iron Dust-bins .....	12
„ New Drains Constructed .....	112
„ Drains Re-constructed .....	28
„ New Connections to Sewer .....	5
„ New Inspection and Disconnection Chambers .....	35
„ Drains Disconnected from Outfall .....	103
„ New Cesspools Constructed .....	3
„ Cesspools Abolished .....	0
„ Private or Public Wells Abolished .....	2
„ Private or Public Wells Cleansed .....	1
„ Private or Public Pumps Repaired .....	5
„ Direct Pollutions to Rivers, Streams, etc., Abated .....	4
„ Offensive Accumulations Removed .....	7
„ Backyards Concreted .....	0
„ Cowsheds, Stables, etc., Repaired or Drained .....	12
„ Slaughterhouses Visited (visits 141) .....	25
„ Workshops Visited (visits 128) .....	98
„ Cowsheds Visited (visits 340) .....	151
„ Houses for work done .....	169
Total Number of Nuisances Abated .....	299



# **Wetherby Rural District Council.**

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## **REPORT OF THE Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances**

**For the Year Ending 31st December, 1918.**

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Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
January, 1919.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Wetherby Rural District  
Council.**

Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I prepare my Twelfth Annual Report of the work in your Health Department for the year 1918.

The Great War has reached a truly great and victorious conclusion, and we all welcome the happy and progressive days of the lasting peace that the future holds forth for all.

My three previous Reports have all shown the effect of the strenuous period through which we have now safely passed, and this Report also bears the impress of the great difficulties that have had to be met and overcome, and although one's tact, patience and perseverance have often been sorely tried, I am pleased to record that the onerous duties have been carried through with a minimum of friction.

Our chief work of the near future lies in the provision of sufficient good, healthy habitations for our population, and I feel sure that your Council will show the same amount of zeal and energy in providing such numbers of suitable houses as the needs of our various Parishes require, as you have done in pre-war days in providing the necessary schemes of sewers, water supply, and sewage disposal works, throughout the District.

### **Nuisances.**

It has only been possible to have a small amount of work carried out during the past year as compared with records for previous periods, this being due to difficulty in obtaining materials and labour.

A perusal of the Report will, however, show that full advantage has been taken, considering the difficulties to be overcome, to deal with all matters of immediate necessity to safeguard the health of the community.

Work under the Housing and Town Planning Act has, during the year, reached zero, the nature of the work being chiefly the tabulation of houses that require attention as soon as circumstances will permit.

Several prosecutions have been necessary in connection with Health work and the Food Control Regulations, as tabulated in the Report.

The administration of the latter work was removed to a separate department from September of this year.

During the year 1,149 Letters, Preliminary, and Legal Notices were issued, of which 16 were Legal Notices.

There were 302 Nuisances found and 281 abated, exclusive of seven abated from those outstanding at the close of 1917, thus leaving 14 to be added to the 74 outstanding at the latter date, making a total of 88 upon the books at the close of the year.

The Sewage Works have required constant supervision during the twelve months because of the continuance of labour shortage.

No serious complaint has been made in regard thereto.

Difficulties have been experienced in regard to Scavenging at Bramham, but in all other Parishes the work has been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

### **House Drainage and Sanitary Arrangements.**

There were only two houses found to be in need of an entirely new drainage system, and these were re-drained.

Sixty-seven new drains have been laid and 21 re-laid or repaired, and 14 new inspection and disconnection chambers built.

Two privy middens were converted into W.C.'s, two pail closets into W.C.'s, and 25 pail closets and water closets repaired. Five new W.C.'s were erected in lieu of dilapidated, also nine new galvanised iron dust-bins were provided.

### Construction of New Buildings.

There were only eight sets of plans approved, and these were small alterations or additions of small value, and no new houses were completed.

### Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

Number of Houses Inspected .....	19
Number of Houses found unfit:—	
Railway Carriage used as a Cottage at Marston .....	
Cottage at Kirkby Overblow .....	2
The former was closed, but the latter remained in occupation at the close of the year.	
Number of Houses condemned and closed during 1916, but not yet demolished (Bardsey) .....	1
Number of Houses condemned during 1914, but not yet closed (Spofforth) .....	18
Number of Houses condemned during 1914, but not yet closed (Thorner) .....	1
Number of Houses closed during 1913, but not yet demolished (Walton) .....	2
Damp Walls prevented .....	1
Walls Repaired .....	1
Roofs and Spouts Repaired .....	1
Drainage and Conveniences, etc. ....	3
Overcrowded and Dirty (dealt with) .....	5
Houses found unsatisfactory .....	11
Total Number of Houses Closed during 1918 .....	2

### Military.

The work under this head has changed considerably from the previous years.

Very few soldiers have been billeted in your area, but several Cadet and Scout Camps were opened during the summer months to assist the farmers at hay-time and harvest .

Sites for Camps were inspected by our Medical Officer and myself in regard to suitability for the purpose, also water supplies inspected and samples analysed and assistance given *re* Scavenging, etc.

Many Camps of German prisoners have been maintained throughout most of the year in various Parishes, containing 20, 40 or 60 men, according to the requirements, and for a few weeks 250 were housed at the Brewery, Wetherby, necessitating nightly attendance of Scavengers, which rendered it most difficult to keep the work in the town satisfactory.



The assistance rendered to the various Camps was much appreciated.

No single military or prisoner case of infection has been recorded during the whole twelve months, which is most satisfactory.

### **Water Supplies.**

Thirty-five additional houses have had a definite piped supply of pure water laid on during the year, as follows :—34 to Wetherby Water Co.'s mains and one to the Council's scheme at Kirkby Overblow.

The Leeds and Harewood supplies remain as a year ago.

There are now 1,925 houses thus supplied out of 3,492 houses in the District. This shows good progress at such a difficult period as the present.

Eleven samples of water were taken for Chemical Analysis. No occasion arose necessitating Bacteriological Examination. Ten of these were satisfactory, and in the other instance a bore hole was sunk to a lower stratum and a good supply obtained. This latter was in connection with the erection of four new cottages, referred to in my last Report, and which is now completed in the Table of Prosecutions in this Report.

### **Infection and Disinfection.**

For purposes of comparison with previous years, Measles is again put under a separate heading.

A perusal of the following Table will, I am sure, prove most interesting and valuable, as the splendid results are no doubt due in part to the general improvement in the sanitary condition of your District in regard to water supply, drainage, and sewage disposal, and the elimination of many of the congested and insanitary houses, and the care that is given to immediate isolation and thorough disinfection of premises and infected articles during the past 10 or 12 years.

Consideration should also be given to the fact that your District has great community of interests with Leeds, Harrogate and York, and that many children during convalescence come into the area to recuperate, this latter being one of our main causes of infectious diseases.



**TABLE OF ZYMOTIC RETURNS.**

1918	number	notified	31	1910	number	notified	102
1917	„	„	40	1909	„	„	50
1916	„	„	53	1908	„	„	39
1915	„	„	49	1907	„	„	78
1914	„	„	56	1906	„	„	50
1913	„	„	41	1905	„	„	151
1912	„	„	78	1904	„	„	114
1911	„	„	52				

The average of the 15 years is 64.

There have been 12 cases of Scarlet Fever. This is only two above last year, which was a record. Twelve cases of Diphtheria, as compared with 17 last year, 11 in 1916, and six cases of Erysipelas, compared with seven in each of the two previous periods.

One case of Enteric Fever was notified, this being the first case in the District for three years. In this instance the patient came here to her parents from Leeds to be nursed, as she was ill, and was immediately notified as above.

A serious fire at the Isolation Hospital, Sicklinghall, on May 1st, which totally destroyed the Scarlet Fever Block, was fortunately unattended by any loss of life, but many valuable records were destroyed, and I cannot give the usual details as to patients removed to Hospital because of this.

No case of Cerebro-Spinal Menengitis or Ophthalmia Neonatorum was respectively reported, as compared with six and one respectively last year.

**Influenza Epidemic.**

The severe epidemic which ravaged the whole country during the past year was very severe in your District, and there were 51 deaths certified as due to this disease and eight from Pneumonia and other respiratory diseases.

The outbreak entailed much additional work, and 23 schools out of a total 27 in the District had to be closed, details of which I append in tabulated list.

Since the Hospital porter was taken into the Army over 12 months ago, I have had to superintend the whole of the disinfecting throughout the District, both in the homes of patients and also at the Isolation Hospital, where the steam disinfector is situated, and this has taken up a very large portion of my time and thus reduced the amount of inspection work in the District.

**School Closing :—**

Weeks. Days.				Weeks. Days.			
Bardsey	Measles .....	3	—	Long Marston.	Influenza	3	2
„	Influenza.....	3	3	Little Ribston	„	4	—
Bilton	„ .....	3	—	North Rigton.	Whooping		
Boston Spa	„ .....	3	2		Cough	4	—
(Church)				„	Influenza	4	1
Bramham	„ .....	4	—	Spofforth	„	5	—
(Church)				Thorparch.	Scarlet F'v'r.	3	—
Clifford	„ .....	5	1	„	Influenza	3	2
(Convent)				Tockwith	„	5	2
Collingham	„ .....	3	1	(Church)			
Harewood	„ .....	2	—	Tockwith	„	8	—
E. Keswick	Measles .....	3	—	(Wesleyan)			
„	Influenza.....	4	2	Weeton	„	5	—
Kirkby O'blow.	„ .....	3	—	Wetherby	„	5	—
Kirk Deighton	„ .....	3	4	(Church)			
Linton	„ .....	1	3	Wetherby	„	5	—
				(Council)			

**Measles Regulations, 1915.**

There has been a very considerable diminution in the number of notifications under this head as compared with last year, only 65 were received, as compared with 183. These were chiefly during the first quarter of the year, and 62 during the first six months, and only two in second half, and no case whatever has been reported since September 5th.

These were spread chiefly over the western portion of the District, and covered no less than 16 Parishes.

Ten cases were notified by the heads of households, thus 84.61 per cent. were notified by Medical Practitioners, as compared with 90.93 per cent. in the previous year.

The precautionary measures taken to combat the disease were similar to those already outlined.

**Tuberculosis Regulations, 1912.**

There were 14 notifications during the year, of which 10 were Pulmonary and four other forms of Tuberculosis.

These compare with 18, 13, 29, 37 and 25 in the previous five years respectively.

**Prosecutions.**

Occupation of House before obtaining Certificate of Occupation and before providing a sufficient supply of pure water :—

		£2 0s. 0d. and Costs.
Ditto.	ditto.	£2 0s. 0d. and Costs.

Slaughtering animal upon unlicensed premises  
£1 0s. 0d. and Costs.

Slaughtering animal in contravention of Knackers' Acts  
Dismissed.

### **Food Control Regulations.**

Failing to keep necessary Books and Register  
£1 0s. 0d. and Costs.

Selling animal not in a market for slaughter  
£1 0s. 0d. and Costs.

Purchasing animal not in a market and slaughtering same  
£10 0s. 0d. and Costs.

Contravention of Ration Book Order  
£10 & £4 4s. 0d. Costs.

### **Dairies, Cowsheds, Etc.**

Careful inspection has been carried out during the year in regard to cleanliness of milk production. 227 visits have been made and two Cowsheds have had improvements carried out.

There are 148 registered in the District.

### **Food and Drugs Act.**

I again beg to thank the County Council Medical Officer for the following List of Samples taken by the County Officer in this District :—

#### **List of Samples taken under Food and Drugs Acts by County Food and Drug Inspector in Wetherby Rural District during 1918.**

No. of Samples.	Nature of Sample.	Result.
1.	Gregory Powder .....	Genuine.
2.	Compound Licorice Powder.....	„
1.	Compound Bismuth Lozenges ...	„
4.	Camphorated Oil .....	„
2.	Baking Powder .....	„
2.	Arrowroot .....	„
1.	Tartaric Acid .....	Adulterated.
1.	Castor Oil .....	Genuine.
1.	Margarine .....	„
1.	Corn Flour .....	„
2.	Ground Rice .....	„
3.	Ground Ginger .....	„
2.	Lard .....	„
4.	Milk .....	„
1.	Rice .....	„
1.	Butter .....	„
1.	Pearl Barley .....	„



## Slaughterhouses and Food Inspection.

136 visits of inspection were made to the Slaughterhouses in the District, and those in use were kept clean and in accordance with the regulations, also a considerable number of butchers' shops and retailers were visited in regard to meat inspection.

The following was surrendered and condemned:—

Beef .....	74 Stones.
Mutton .....	4 „
Lamb .....	3 „
Ham .....	4 „
Bacon .....	2 „

## Workshops.

112 visits were made to the various Workshops in the District, and in one instance a definite piped supply of water had to be laid on in connection with the Factory and Workshop Welfare Order, dated October 9th, 1917.

No serious contraventions were met with, and I herewith submit tabulated list of the Workshops in the District:—

**TABLE OF WORKSHOPS.**

Bakers, etc. ....	15	Laundries .....	12
Boot Repairers .....	8	Painting Work .....	2
Blacksmiths .....	9	Plumbers and Tinnerns .....	5
Blouse and Shirt (Factories) ...	2	Saddlers .....	5
Coopers .....	1	Sawmills .....	1
Dressmakers .....	10	Tailors .....	10
Engineers (Motor) .....	4		—
Joiners .....	14		98
			—

## House Scavenging.

The following list gives the amount of scavenging refuse for the past twelve months and also seven previous years for comparison.

Great difficulty has been experienced at Bramham Parish, and I am unable to give the actual amount removed because of lack of time-sheets from the Contractor.



**Loads Removed—Ashpits.**

	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
Boston Spa .....	708	755	775	763	740	789	782	707
Bramham .....	270	239	251	204	259	285	337	No record.
Clifford .....	170	153	234	267	274	364	401	397
Thorner .....	350	342	397	445	427	384	437	401
Weeton .....	320	337	339	336	386	404	324	343
Wetherby .....	680	621	617	584	725	605	742	797
Collingham .....	233	233	194	213	193	212	199	227
Spofforth .....	—	—	118	120	103	89	72	62½

**Loads Removed—Cesspools.**

	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
Boston Spa .....	7	—	4	—	4	16	4	—
Bramham .....	12	4	60	—	—	—	—	—
Clifford .....	1143	402	43	69	83	49	40	77
Thorner .....	51	73	78	62	74	71	35	77
Weeton .....	587	634	743	877	304	55	18	—
Wetherby .....	1894	1339	1271	1041	931	673	756	338
Collingham .....	1626	1340	499	365	329	312	261	285
Spofforth .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

**Petrol Regulations.**

Careful inspection has been made in regard to the above, and no infringements have been met with during the year.

In conclusion, I desire to express my thanks to the Council, Medical Officer of Health and Officials for their generous assistance at all times, which is a great help in the performance of my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**THOMAS V. GRAY.**

**TABLE OF NUISANCES REPORTED AND ABATED DURING THE  
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1918.**

Houses	Dirty .....	4
"	Overcrowded .....	1
"	Damp and Dilapidated .....	4
"	Badly Drained .....	2
"	Without sufficient Privy Accommodation .....	7
"	Dilapidated Privies .....	24
"	Drains Temporarily Stopped .....	68
"	Dilapidated Pumps .....	6
"	Want of Cesspools .....	0
"	Want of Water for Domestic Purposes .....	35
No. of	Offensive Accumulations .....	5
"	Offensive Cowsheds, Stables, Pigsties, etc. ....	11
"	Pollutions to Rivers, Streams, etc. ....	1
"	House Drains removed from Streams, etc. ....	1
"	Polluted Wells .....	1
"	House Nuisances found .....	213
Total	Number of Nuisances found .....	302
No. of	House to House Inspections made under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909 .....	19
"	Houses thoroughly Inspected for Zymotic Disease .....	25
"	Other House Inspections (Drainage) .....	60
"	New House Inspections (for Certificate) .....	0
No. of	Notices and Letters Served .....	1149
"	Dwelling-houses Cleansed .....	4
"	Dwelling-houses Overcrowded death with .....	1
"	Privy Middens Built .....	0
"	Old Privy Middens Repaired .....	0
"	Old Privy Middens converted to Water Closets .....	2
"	Old Privy Middens converted to Pail Closets .....	0
"	Pail Closets converted to Water Closets .....	2
"	Pail Closets and Water Closets Repaired .....	25
"	New Water Closets Built .....	5
"	New Pail Closets Built .....	0
"	New Galvanized Iron Dust-bins .....	9
"	New Drains constructed .....	67
"	Drains re-constructed .....	21
"	New Connections to Sewer .....	1
"	New Inspection and Disconnection Chambers .....	14
"	Drains Disconnected from Outfall .....	59
"	New Cesspools constructed .....	0
"	Cesspools abolished .....	3
"	Private or Public Wells abolished .....	0
"	Private or Public Wells cleansed .....	2
"	Private or Public Pumps repaired .....	6
"	Direct Pollutions to Rivers, Streams, etc., abated .....	1
"	Offensive Accumulations removed .....	5
"	Backyards Concreted .....	0
"	Cowsheds, Stables, etc., repaired or drained .....	11
"	Slaughterhouses Visited (visits 136) .....	25
"	Workshops Visited (visits 112) .....	98
"	Cowsheds Visited (visits 227) .....	145
"	Houses for work done .....	119
Total	Number of Nuisances abated .....	281



